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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/589,038	06/06/2000	Li Mo	064731.0142	9665
7590 12/13/2005 Baker Botts LLP 2001 Rosse Avenue Dallas, TX 75201-2980			EXAMINER HO, CHUONG T	
			ART UNIT 2664	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/589,038

Applicant(s)

MO ET AL.

Examiner

CHUONG T. HO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-10,19 and 22-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-10,19,22-24 and 26-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. Amendment filed 09/26/05 have been entered and made of record.
2. Applicant's amendment filed 09/26/05 with respect to claims 1, 5-10, 19, 22-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
3. Claims 1, 5-10, 19, 22-29 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 5-7, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walrand et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,711,125) in view of Chang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,111 B1).

In the claim 1, see figure 7, Walrand et al. discloses generating a first protection path (p1-backup 708) for connectionless (connectionless signals includes IP or Ipx or SNA) (see col. 2, lines 50-55) signals from each of the nodes (each nodes z1, z2, z3, z4, z6, see col. 9, lines 1-10) to a destination node (z5) (see figure 7, col. 9, lines 1-10); comprising:

- generating a second protection path (p2-backup 712) from each of the nodes (z1, z2, z3, z4, z6) to the destination node (z5), the second protection path (p2-backup 712, figure 7) distinct from the first protection path (p1-backup 708, figure

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7) such that the first (p1-backup 708) and second protection paths (p2-backup 712) do not have any common nodes or **links** (see figure 7, col. 9, lines 1-10);

- routing protection traffic along one of the protection paths (p1-backup 708, p2-back 712) to the destination node (z5).

However, Walrand is silent to disclosing wherein generating the first protection path and generating the second protection path each comprise decomposing the telecommunications network into a ring and at least one ear.

See figure 12, Chang et al. discloses generating the first protection path 98.1 and generating the second protection path (100.1) each comprise decomposing the telecommunications network into a ring and at least one ear ((90.1, 90.2) (see col. 13, lines 65-67, col. 14, lines 1-15).

Both Walrand, and Chang discloses the first protection path and the second protection path which do not have any common links. Chang recognizes generating the first protection path 98.1 and generating the second protection path (100.1) each comprise decomposing the telecommunications network into a ring and at least one ear ((90.1, 90.2) (see col. 13, lines 65-67, col. 14, lines 1-15). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Walrand with the teaching of Chang to provide the first protection path and generating the second protection path each comprise decomposing the telecommunications network into a ring and at least one ear in order to increase network efficiency.

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6. In the claim 19, see figure 7, Walrand et al. discloses generating a first protection path (p1-backup 708) for connectionless (connectionless signals includes IP or lpx or SNA) (see col. 2, lines 50-55) signals from each of the nodes (each nodes z1, z2, z3, z4, z6, see col. 9, lines 1-10) to a destination node (z5) (see figure 7, col. 9, lines 1-10); comprising:

- generating a second protection path (p2-backup 712) from each of the nodes (z1, z2, z3, z4, z6) to the destination node (z5), the second protection path (p2-backup 712, figure 7) distinct from the first protection path (p1-backup 708, figure 7) such that the first (p1-backup 708) and second protection paths (p2-backup 712) do not have any common nodes or **links** (see figure 7, col. 9, lines 1-10);
- routing protection traffic along one of the protection paths (p1-backup 708, p2-back 712) to the destination node (z5).

However, Walrand is silent to disclosing wherein generating the first protection path and generating the second protection path each comprise decomposing the telecommunications network into a ring and at least one ear.

See figure 12, Chang et al. discloses generating the first protection path 98.1 and generating the second protection path (100.1) each comprise decomposing the telecommunications network into a ring and at least one ear ((90.1, 90.2) (see col. 13, lines 65-67, col. 14, lines 1-15).

Both Walrand, and Chang discloses the first protection path and the second protection path which do not have any common links. Chang recognizes generating the first protection path 98.1 and generating the second protection path (100.1) each

comprise decomposing the telecommunications network into a ring and at least one ear ((90.1, 90.2) (see col. 13, lines 65-67, col. 14, lines 1-15). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Walrand with the teaching of Chang to provide the first protection path and generating the second protection path each comprise decomposing the telecommunications network into a ring and at least one ear in order to increase network efficiency.

7. In the claim 5, Chang discloses decomposing the telecommunications network further comprising charting the ring horizontally beginning with the destination and ending with destination node (see col. 13, lines 65-67, col. 14, lines 1-15).

8. In the claim 6, Chang discloses decomposing the telecommunications network further comprising ordering the ears and charting the ears horizontally based on the order of the ears (see col. 13, lines 65-67, col. 14, lines 1-15).

9. In the claim 7, Chang discloses generating the first protection path further comprising generating the first protection path in a first direction based on the charted ring and ears and generating the second protection path further comprising generating the second protection path in a second direction based on the charted ring and ears (see col. 13, lines 65-67, col. 14, lines 1-15).

10. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined system (Walrand – Chang) in view of Uphadya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,755).

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In the claim 8, the combined system (Walrand – Chang) discloses the limitations of claim 1 above.

However, the combined system (Walrand – Chang) is silent to disclosing classifying received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic.

Uphadya et al. discloses classifying received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic (see figure 4, col. 4, lines 57-67).

Both Walrand, Chang, and Uphadya discloses the protection path. Uphadya recognizes classifying received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined system (Walrand – Chang) with the teaching of Uphadya to classify received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic in order to improve the network more efficiency.

11. In the claim 9, the combined system (Walrand – Chang) discloses the limitations of claim 1 above.

However, the combined system (Walrand – Chang) is silent to disclosing routing protection traffic further comprising routing along the first protection path the protection traffic received on the first protection path and routing along the second protection path the protection traffic received on the second protection path.

Uphadya et al. discloses routing protection traffic further comprising routing along the first protection path the protection traffic received on the first protection path and routing along the second protection path the protection traffic received on the second protection path (see figure 4, col. 4, lines 57-67).

Both Walrand, Chang, and Uphadya discloses the protection path. Uphadya recognizes routing protection traffic further comprising routing along the first protection path the protection traffic received on the first protection path and routing along the second protection path the protection traffic received on the second protection path. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined system (Walrand – Chang) with the teaching of Uphadya to route protection traffic further comprising routing along the first protection path the protection traffic received on the first protection path and routing along the second protection path the protection traffic received on the second protection path in order to improve the network more efficiency

12. In the claim 10, the combined system (Walrand – Chang) discloses the limitations of claim 9 above.

However, the combined system (Walrand – Chang) is silent to disclosingdetermining which of the first and second protection paths to the destination node comprises a shorter path; and routing received working traffic as protection traffic onto the protection path comprising the shorter path.

Uphadya et al. discloses determining which of the first and second protection paths to the destination node comprises a shorter path; and routing received working traffic as protection traffic onto the protection path comprising the shorter path (see figure 4, col. 4, lines 57-67).

Both Walrand, Chang, and Uphadya discloses the protection path. Uphadya recognizesdetermining which of the first and second protection paths to the destination

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node comprises a shorter path; and routing received working traffic as protection traffic onto the protection path comprising the shorter path. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined system (Walrand – Chang) with the teaching of Uphadya to determine which of the first and second protection paths to the destination node comprises a shorter path; and routing received working traffic as protection traffic onto the protection path comprising the shorter path in order to improve the network more efficiency.

13. Claims 22-24, 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined system (Walrand-Chang) in view of Uphadya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,755).

In the claim 22, the combined system (Walrand - Chang) discloses the limitations of claim 19 above.

However, the combined system (Walrand - Chang) is silent to disclosing each of nodes comprising at least two ports, each port operable to receive and transmit traffic for the node and a protection egress port identifier operable to identify one of the port as a protection egress port for a specified ingress port and a specified destination node, the protection egress port operable to transmit protection traffic received at the specified ingress port for the specified destination node.

Uphadya discloses each of nodes (A, B, C, D, E) comprising at least two ports, each port operable to receive and transmit traffic for the node and a protection egress port identifier operable to identify one of the ports as a protection egress port for a specified ingress port and a specified destination node, the protection egress port

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operable to transmit protection traffic received at the specified ingress port for the specified destination node (see figure 4, 5, col. 4, lines 56-67).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined system (Walrand - Chang) with the teaching of Uphadya to provide at least two ports (each of nodes), each port operable to receive and transmit traffic for the node in order to identify one of the ports as a protection egress port for a specified ingress port and a specified destination node, the protection egress port operable to transmit protection traffic received at the specified ingress port for the specified destination node. Therefore, the combined system would have been enable the node to be re-routed the traffic to another available egress protection port (a failure occurs on the working egress port).

14. In the claim 23, the combined system (Walrand - Chang) discloses the limitations of claim 22 above.

However, the combined system (Walrand - Chang) is silent to disclosing an egress port evaluator operable to evaluate a status for each of the nodes.

Uphadya discloses an egress port evaluator operable to evaluate a status for each of the nodes (see figure 4, 5, col. 4, lines 45-67).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined system (Walrand - Chang) with the teaching of Uphadya to provide an egress port evaluator operable to evaluate a status for each of the nodes in order to identify one of the ports as a protection egress port for a specified ingress port and a specified destination node, the protection egress port operable to

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transmit protection traffic received at the specified ingress port for the specified destination node. Therefore, the combined system would have been enable the node to be re-routed the traffic to another available egress protection port (a failure occurs on the working egress port).

15. In the claim 24, the combined system (Walrand - Chang) discloses the limitations of claim 23 above.

However, the combined system (Walrand - Chang) is silent to disclosing each of the nodes further comprising an egress port selector operable to select an egress port for transmitting traffic for the node.

Uphadya discloses each of the nodes further comprising an egress port selector operable to select an egress port for transmitting traffic for the node (see figure 4, 5, col. 4, lines 45-67).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined system (Walrand - Chang) with the teaching of Uphadya to provide each of the nodes further comprising an egress port selector operable to select an egress port for transmitting traffic for the node in order to identify one of the ports as a protection egress port for a specified ingress port and a specified destination node, the protection egress port operable to transmit protection traffic received at the specified ingress port for the specified destination node. Therefore, the combined system would have been enable the node to be re-routed the traffic to another available egress protection port (a failure occurs on the working egress port).

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16. In the claim 26, the combined system (Walrand - Chang) discloses the limitations of claim 24 above.

However, the combined system (Walrand - Chang) is silent to disclosing each of the nodes further comprising a working traffic egress port identifier (see figure 3) operable to identify one of the ports as a working traffic egress port for a specified ingress port and a specified destination node, the working traffic egress port operable to transmit working traffic received at the specified ingress port for the specified destination node.

Uphadya discloses each of the nodes further comprising a working traffic egress port identifier (see figure 3) operable to identify one of the ports as a working traffic egress port for a specified ingress port and a specified destination node, the working traffic egress port operable to transmit working traffic received at the specified ingress port for the specified destination node (see figure 4, 5, col. 4, lines 45-67).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined system (Walrand - Chang) with the teaching of Uphadya to provide each of the nodes further comprising a working traffic egress port identifier (see figure 3) operable to identify one of the ports as a working traffic egress port for a specified ingress port and a specified destination node, the working traffic egress port operable to transmit working traffic received at the specified ingress port for the specified destination node in order to identify one of the ports as a protection egress port for a specified ingress port and a specified destination node, the protection egress port operable to transmit protection traffic received at the specified ingress port

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for the specified destination node. Therefore, the combined system would have been enable the node to be re-routed the traffic to another available egress protection port (a failure occurs on the working egress port).

17. In the claim 27, the combined system (Walrand - Chang) discloses the limitations of claim 26 above.

However, the combined system (Walrand - Chang) is silent to disclosing each of nodes further comprising a secondary protection egress port identifier operable to identify one of the ports as a secondary protection egress port for a specified destination node, the secondary protection egress port operable to transmit as protection traffic the working traffic received at the node for the specified destination node.

Uphadya discloses each of nodes further comprising a secondary protection egress port identifier operable to identify one of the ports as a secondary protection egress port for a specified destination node, the secondary protection egress port operable to transmit as protection traffic the working traffic received at the node for the specified destination node (see figure 4, 5, col. 4, lines 45-67).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined system (Walrand - Chang) with the teaching of Uphadya to provide each of nodes further comprising a secondary protection egress port identifier operable to identify one of the ports as a secondary protection egress port for a specified destination node, the secondary protection egress port operable to transmit as protection traffic the working traffic received at the node for the specified destination

node in order to identify one of the ports as a protection egress port for a specified ingress port and a specified destination node, the protection egress port operable to transmit protection traffic received at the specified ingress port for the specified destination node. Therefore, the combined system would have been enable the node to be re-routed the traffic to another available egress protection port (a failure occurs on the working egress port).

18. In the claim 28, the combined system (Walrand – Chang) discloses the limitations of claim 27 above.

However, the combined system (Walrand – Chang) is silent to disclosing classifying received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic.

Uphadya et al. discloses classifying received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic (see figure 4, col. 4, lines 57-67).

Both Walrand, Chang, and Uphadya discloses the protection path. Uphadya recognizes classifying received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined system (Walrand – Chang) with the teaching of Uphadya to classify received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic in order to improve the network more efficiency.

19. In the claim 29, the combined system (Walrand – Chang) discloses the limitations of claim 28 above.

However, the combined system (Walrand – Chang) is silent to disclosing the egress port selector operable to select an egress port for transmitting traffic for the node based on

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the classification of the received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic and based on the status of the egress ports.

Uphadya et al. discloses the egress port selector operable to select an egress port for transmitting traffic for the node based on the classification of the received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic and based on the status of the egress ports (see figure 4, col. 4, lines 57-67).

Both Walrand, Chang, and Uphadya discloses the protection path. Uphadya recognizes the egress port selector operable to select an egress port for transmitting traffic for the node based on the classification of the received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic and based on the status of the egress ports. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined system (Walrand – Chang) with the teaching of Uphadya to provide the egress port selector operable to select an egress port for transmitting traffic for the node based on the classification of the received traffic as working traffic or protection traffic and based on the status of the egress ports in order to improve the network more efficiency.

Allowable Subject Matter

20. Claim 25 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

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21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHUONG T HO whose telephone number is (571) 272-3133. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

12/06/05


Ajit Patel
Primary Examiner